

**TI-920**

**Prepared:** July 12, 2001

**Short Description:**

Human health Risk Associated with Indoor Application of Insecticides.

**Inquiry:**

Following is the caller's question of June 27, 2001 regarding human health risks associated with indoor application of insecticides:

Does the indoor application of "P.I. Contact Insecticide" pose any health threat to building occupants?

**Response:**

Upon review of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for "P.I. Contact Insecticide" (P.I.), the Hotline determined that P.I. contains, as an active ingredient, pyrethrins, which have a low toxicity to humans. Pyrethrins are used in consumer products such as sprays for the purpose of killing flying insects, plant sprays for indoor use and as flea preparations. The P.I. MSDS, however, did not include any specific application instructions, but rather referenced the product label for such instructions. Whitmire Micro-Gen Research Laboratories, the manufacturer of P.I., was contacted to inquire as to how this insecticide is to be applied and what, if any, potential health effects may be attributed to the application of this insecticide. A technical support representative for Whitmire Micor-Gen (1-800-777-8570, ext. 4214) advised that P.I. is a general crawling and flying insect contact insecticide. As a contact insecticide, it must be sprayed in a manner in which the insects have direct contact with the insecticide, otherwise it is not effective in destroying the insects. This insecticide should be applied in a closed-off area for 15 minutes, then the area should be ventilated for one hour (or until the area is fully ventilated) before persons should return to the sprayed area. P.I. will breakdown and become totally ineffective in about 5 to 6 hours. The technical support representative also advised that there have been no long-term health effects, such as cancer, associated with the active ingredients in this insecticide. However, if persons come into contact with the insecticide it may cause skin irritation or allergic reactions depending upon a person's sensitivity to the chemicals. Generally, if the insecticide is used consistent with its labeling, it is not very likely to pose a threat to human health.

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